

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/733,575

Examiner

Michael C. Miggins

Applicant(s)

ICHIKAWA, YOSHIO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/1/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-12, 14-18 and 20.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 10122004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 04012005
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**MICHAEL C. MIGGINS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

*Michael C. Miggins*

*re*

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### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joe Ruch on 4/1/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims:**

Claim 19 has been canceled.

In claim 1, lines 1-2, after "motor vehicle" and before "an inorganic coating" the phrase "whose inner face is processed with" has been deleted and the phrase - - comprising a coating film disposed on an inner face of said fuel tank, wherein said coating film consists of - - has been inserted in place thereof.

In claim 20, line 2, after "to claim" and before ", wherein" the number "19" has been deleted and the number - - 11 - - has been inserted in place thereof.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claim 1, the prior art does not teach or suggest a fuel tank for a motor vehicle comprising a coating film disposed on an inner face of said fuel tank, wherein said coating film consists of an inorganic coating agent comprising (A) fine

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particles carrying silver and/or copper and (B) inorganic fine particles, further comprising (C) at least one synthetic resin binder selected from the group consisting of an acrylic resin, an alkyd resin, an amino resin, a phenol resin, an epoxy resin, a polyamide resin, a fluororesin, a polyisocyanate, a polyester resin, an acryl-modified urethane resin, a silicone resin, and a silicone-acrylic resin.

Wright (GB 2,317,921) and Ichikawa (US 5,433,841) are the closest prior art.

Wright teaches a fuel tank for a motor vehicle comprising a coating film disposed on an inner face, wherein said coating film consists of an inorganic coating agent comprising a catalyst alloy/amalgam. However, Wright fails to teach an inorganic coating agent comprising (A) fine particles carrying silver and/or copper and (B) inorganic fine particles, further comprising (C) at least one synthetic resin binder selected from the group consisting of an acrylic resin, an alkyd resin, an amino resin, a phenol resin, an epoxy resin, a polyamide resin, a fluororesin, a polyisocyanate, a polyester resin, an acryl-modified urethane resin, a silicone resin, and a silicone-acrylic resin.

Ichikawa teaches a catalyst comprising (A) fine particles carrying silver and/or copper and (B) inorganic fine particles, further comprising (C) at least one synthetic resin binder. However, Ichikawa fails to teach a coating film disposed on an inner face of said fuel tank.

The references are not combinable since one of ordinary skill in the art would not seek to combine an alloy amalgam with the catalyst of Ichikawa to arrive at applicant's claimed invention. Moreover, neither reference teaches at least one synthetic resin binder selected from the group consisting of an acrylic resin, an alkyd resin, an amino

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resin, a phenol resin, an epoxy resin, a polyamide resin, a fluororesin, a polyisocyanate, a polyester resin, an acryl-modified urethane resin, a silicone resin, and a silicone-acrylic resin.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Miggins whose telephone number is 571-272-1494. The examiner can normally be reached on 1:00-10:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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MCM  
April 1, 2005

Michael C. Miggins  
Primary Examiner  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Miggins", with a stylized flourish at the end.